

Vision ~ Arbor Heights Elementary School is a community dedicated to fostering
The development of lifelong critical and creative thinkers

Arbor Heights' School Communicator

arborheights.wikispaces.com/Principals+Corner

June 7, 2012

At Arbor Heights we continue to be very proud of the work we have done to focus on our school goals and further enhance educational excellence. We have a high level of commitment to being the best school we can be and are definitely still on the road to success.

The purpose of this End-of Year Report is to share with you what and how we have done as a school. We are excited and proud to share our school year with you. Our wonderful students are the focus of our school, and we want you to know the progress, as well as areas we want to continue to focus on, to help them grow to the maximum extent possible. As we conclude our current school year and move toward the year 2012/2013, we take with us countless memories of the positive efforts made by so many dedicated individuals on behalf of our students at Arbor Heights. We have had a very positive and productive school year!

The Arbor Heights Staff is very proud of our commitment to quality instruction. They spend many long hours planning and organizing instruction so that our students experience only the best that we have to offer. We have maintained a significant emphasis this year on the area of reading. As you may recall, the State and District adopted the Common Core State Standards with K-2 adoption in English Language (Literacy) and mathematics (more information available at our first all-school Curriculum Night (September 27)).

Exciting Events for September!

8/29 **Post cards sent** to your home letting your child know who their teacher will be for school year 2012-13.

9/4 **Meet & Greet:** Meet your teacher and visit your classroom! 2:00-3:00 PM.

9/5 **First day of school!** School begins at 8:55 AM!

9/20 **Back-To-School Barbecue.** 6:00 PM.

9/27 **Curriculum Night.** Grades K-2, 6:00-6:45. Principal Presentation 6:45-7:15. Grades 3-5, 7:45-8:30.

We must say goodbye to the fifty four 5th graders. They will be missed, but they leave Arbor Heights well prepared academically and socially for middle school. We say farewell and thank you for helping to make this school year such a great success!

Teacher in grades K-2 have worked since January to align curriculum in mathematics, reading and writing. We will have teacher and student materials for phonics and handwriting (orthographic loop) for every kindergarten through second grade classroom. Teachers have also incorporated the use of "Interactive and Guided Reading," leveled books, which support their teaching of guided reading.

All Arbor Heights' teachers and classified staff participated in the new Professional Growth and Evaluation System with a focus on self-assessment, reflection and instructional strategies.

Teachers were provided building-based professional development in researched, best practice instructional strategies; as well as, evidence-based practice in the areas of: Planning and Preparation, Classroom Environment and Professional Responsibilities. Reflection and collaborative teaming were weekly events here at Arbor Heights. Professional Learning Communities/grade - level teams looked at student growth measures, curriculum alignment and how to best improve instructional practice.

Our school Learning Assistance Program (LAP) provides additional support in reading for identified students. We began a before school homework support for students needing extra help and parent volunteers work closely with classroom teachers to help provide additional support to our students. We have also gathered additional assessment/testing data to insure complete information regarding reading and math progress our students are making. We will continue to make assessment, professional development, and instructional decisions from the data we

have gathered, as well as our standardized test information.

We are very excited to have new computer lab in place with 32 MAC desktop machines, a new projection system, paint and soon to arrive, heat reducing blinds to keep the lab cool during the few warm days we experience in late fall and spring. In addition to the new lab, our classrooms will be equipped with new, MAC student computers arriving in late June. Mobile carts with Chrome laptops and wireless hubs will be ready to go before the school year ends! **Thank you** parents for your generous donations for new technology provided at the Arbor Heights' PTA Auction. We now believe anything is possible!

A major part of our success is due to the support of our dedicated PTA, our wonderful supportive parents and school community. Under the leadership of Cori Roed and John Christensen, our PTA has provided financial support for many programs that greatly enrich the educational experience of our students. Beyond the financial support, the community activities such as the Back-To-School Barbeque, Spaghetti Dinner, BINGO night and Arbor Heights' Auction provide opportunities for friendship; cooperation and caring that are the cornerstones of a successful school community. We could not do the jobs we do if it were not for all of you! Thank you all for your continued support, we are grateful to all who contribute to our success. Together, we will continue to work towards providing the best possible education for our students at Arbor Heights Elementary School.

Have a wonderful summer!

SCHOOL CALENDAR

June 14 (NEW DATE)

~Field Day & Field Day BBQ

June 20

~Kindergarten Graduation

10:45-11:45am

~5th Grade Graduation 1:30pm

June 21

~3rd & 4th Grade Pool Party

12:00-3:00pm

June 22

~Awards Assembly 1:00pm

~ Last Day of School,
Early Dismissal 2:00pm

HAPPY SUMMER BREAK!

The Arbor Heights Community would like to bid farewell to the Aldrich and Paton Families. As moves will take you outside of West Seattle, we wish you all the best and thank you for all of your tremendous contributions to our school and community. You will be missed!



~From the PTA~

~**Edible Plant Pick-Up**—The plants from the Edible Plant Sale will be arriving on **Friday, June 8th**. They can be picked up in the playcourt starting at 2:00pm. Contact Amanda Nokes @ max-nokes@comcast.net if you have any questions.

~**Yearbooks!** Make sure to order your copy of the 2011-2012 Arbor Heights Yearbook. They are **\$10 each** and orders can be turned in through **June 13th** to your child's teacher or the front office.

~**NEW DATE for Field Day (June 14th)** K-2 9:30am - 11:30am; 3rd -5th 1:00pm-3:00pm. Stop by and enjoy the fun. Bake Sale during lunch to benefit Children's Hospital (hosted by the 5th graders). Bring treats (in office by 10:30 am) and send/bring money to buy!

~The Arbor Heights Auction Committee is looking for a parent volunteer to be our auctioneer for our **November 16, 2012 auction**. This role requires a dynamic personality who loves being on stage and is comfortable with public speaking. If there are any parents who want to work with the auction committee and fill this role, please contact Lucy Weber @ lucyweb2@yahoo.com.

~The **Student Directory** will be ready in time for Summer Playdates! We expect it to be ready for distribution no later than Friday, June 15th. It will be distributed electronically to the email addresses we have on file for each AH family. Additional paper copies will be available in the front office for pick-up (they will not be sent home via kidmail). And as a reminder, please be respectful to the conditions of use. **The directory is for use solely by the Arbor Heights Elementary school and family community. It is not for solicitation of goods or services.** Here is the excerpt that originally appeared in the Communications Preference form.

The primary purpose of the directory is to provide contact information to assist in parent/guardian communications and for students to improve class-related communications. This information is to be used solely by parents/guardians, students, and teachers/staff, including the PTA. It is NOT to be distributed to others outside the Arbor Heights Elementary School Community.

A special thanks to Lisa Olson, Sherry Fullerton, Stacie Hart, Merrill Aldrich and Darci Severns for their work on the Student Directory.

**Thank you to our fabulous staff for
the wonderful Volunteer Luncheon!**

Golden Acorn & Outstanding Educator Awards

The Arbor Heights PTA is pleased to announce this year's Golden Acorn and Outstanding Educator Awards recipients.

Golden Acorn:

Barb Glascock & Meri Patton

Outstanding Educator:

Christy Collins & Ruben Gonzalez

Congratulations to these wonderful members of our community for all that you do. You are an inspiration to us all!

More about each of these awards:

The Golden Acorn is offered by the Washington State PTA for recognition of a volunteer who has given outstanding service to all children in the school community... not just an individual who has donated time to help in his/her child's class or a staff member who is doing a good job. It is to recognize volunteer service "above and beyond" a particular job description.

The Outstanding Educator Award is offered by the Washington State PTA to recognize individuals who go beyond the normal expectations of their jobs to make the learning environment fun, beneficial, and challenging.



~ FIELD DAY BAKE SALE ~

Hosted by Arbor Heights Fifth Graders

The money raised goes to Seattle Children's Hospital for Cancer Research

When: Field Day, Thurs. June 14 during lunch 11:30ish-12:30ish (all kids must eat lunch first).

What you can do: Donate TREATS to sell (please have in office by 10:30 am); Bring/send cash to BUY or to DONATE funds



Thank you Arbor Heights' Volunteers!

Volunteering is sometimes underrated and, in turn, I've heard people say they are "just" volunteers. However, I have seen the impact a single volunteer can have in a school and the valuable resources they bring, without expense. So I say you should be proud to say you volunteer because the support you give, in any quantity, offers security to an educational system that requires more support than ever before.

As a volunteer it is important to recognize the impact you can make simply by offering a little bit of your time in a school. Try thinking about it like this: for every minute you free up time for a teacher, whether it is making copies or shelving books, it is one more minute he/she can assist a struggling reader. For every time you volunteer at a family event sponsored at the school it is one more opportunity to show your own children the importance of giving back. For the time you step up to help lead a school event, fundraiser, or activity, it is an opportunity to make changes to benefit all children and better the environment in which they all learn and grow.

So be proud to volunteer, continue to make it a priority and know that your children are watching everything you do to learn what is important, and if you make their school a priority on your list, they will too.

You all bring so much to Arbor Heights: skills, advice, experience, friendship, vision and inspiration. And yet you choose to donate your most precious commodity in the known universe. Time. Whether you offer 1 hour or 100 hours to anything, you deserve heartfelt thanks for all that YOU do. So, thank you!

Outstanding Educator Award

As an educator and as your principal, I am deeply honored and humbled by your award of the Outstanding Educator Award presented at the recent Volunteer Luncheon.

I would like to accept this award on behalf of the dedicated and truly committed educators who work day-in and day-out to provide an enriched, personalized education for all Arbor Heights' students.

Arbor Heights' teachers and support staff deserve all of the credit for their selfless care and hard work to make Arbor Heights' a truly special place to learn and grow into the extraordinary members of our community. We are very fortunate to have teachers, parents, and community members who care so deeply for our most precious resource – children!

Thank you!



Dear Seattle Public School families,

I am writing to provide you with an update on changes to transportation for the 2012-13 school year, and also to apologize for the concern and confusion transportation issues have caused in the past couple of weeks.

After several years of budget shortfalls, we have been working hard to develop a balanced budget for the 2012-13 school year, with a goal of keeping budget cuts away from the classroom. As part of this effort, the School Board recently requested an analysis of options that could generate more savings from transportation. We responded to this request with an option that would have saved approximately \$1 million. In response to this option, we heard from many families who were concerned about the potential impacts and the lack of time to provide community engagement.

We know that transportation changes, which in turn affect when school starts each day, may be unpopular. We also know that we did not have enough time to thoughtfully engage our families and staff on these potential decisions. As a result, based on the feedback we received, we provided the School Board with a scaled back option that lessens the impacts to school start times, but does not achieve the savings originally sought. Last night the School Board voted to move forward with this option, which keeps the current 2011-12 transportation plan in place and returns to the 2010 yellow bus ride time target to 45 minutes. This plan has minimal impact on current bell times, except 4-6 elementary schools will have a later start time of no more than 30 minutes from the current bell time. Bell times for the 2012-13 school year will be finalized by the end of this month. This new option is expected to save the District between \$250,000 and \$500,000.

In order to more thoroughly analyze future transportation options and provide for increased community input, the District has convened a task force composed of state and local technical transportation experts. This transportation task force will present recommendations for the new Superintendent to review in September, prior to the Open Enrollment period, for consideration of implementation in 2012-13.

The District also heard from families that we should consider starting elementary schools earlier and high schools later. This has major ramifications for high school students, including after-school jobs and athletics, as well as before- and after-school child care for elementary school families. This will take considerable time to thoroughly study.

We know that transportation to and from school is important to our families and can have a tremendous impact on your daily lives. As we seek to reduce our transportation budget in the future we will continue to consider ways to better communicate with families and minimize impacts. If you have a suggestion, please let us know at trans-dept@seattleschools.org.

Sincerely,

Susan

Susan Enfield, Ed.D.

Interim Superintendent

Seattle Public Schools



Dear Seattle Public Schools staff, families and community,

During the past few weeks we have heard reports of an unsettling number of violent crimes in our region. These senseless acts leave us stunned and heartbroken.

While these incidents did not occur in our school buildings, I want you to know that we closely monitor the neighborhoods around our schools for safety. While our mission is to make sure our students graduate prepared for college, career and life, safety comes first. When you entrust us with your child's education, we know you are also trusting that they will be safe at school.

We work with the City of Seattle and the Seattle Police Department on an ongoing basis to ensure our school buildings are a safe place for our students to learn and for our instructors to teach. When an incident occurs near one of our schools we are in constant contact with the police department to determine if a school building should be secured. On Wednesday, we followed the direction of the Seattle Police Department in securing our schools. As a precautionary measure, some principals also voluntarily locked their school buildings.

I am proud of our principals and school staffs for working quickly with District Safety and Security personnel as well as the Seattle Police Department to make sure schools were secured. I am also proud of our students for remaining calm. While many students were not aware of Wednesday's events as they unfolded, I do know that for some of our students and families these last few weeks have been stressful. I encourage you and your students to talk to the staff at your school if you are concerned or if you have questions about your school's specific safety plans.

Finally, while I hope we never face another situation involving the security of multiple schools, I want to assure families that we will communicate information as quickly and accurately as possible in times of uncertainty. We recognize that some families were unable to get information quickly on Wednesday, and I know that is frustrating. During times of crisis, we will continue to provide accurate updates to the media, and you can also find more information online at www.seattleschools.org; via Twitter @seapubschools or by calling customer service at 206-252-0010.

I want to offer my sincere condolences to those who lost loved ones in these recent tragedies. It is my hope that we can come together and support one another as a community.

Sincerely,

Susan

*Susan Enfield, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent
Seattle Public Schools*